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Date: 4/14/2015

GAIN Report Number: RO1504

Romania

Post: Bucharest

Romania names new President for Veterinary Authority

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Dr. Dumitru Baiculescu was appointed on March 19, 2015 as the new President of the Romanian Veterinary and Food Safety Authority. This appointment ended the interim coverage for the past three months by the Vice President. Strengthening the relationship between the authority and the animal breeding associations, animal disease control and prevention, and opening new export markets will be the main objectives of Dr. Baiculescu's mandate.

General Information:

On March 19, 2015, the Romanian Government appointed Dr. Dumitru Baiculescu as the new President of the Romanian Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA), the entity responsible for all food safety and animal health regulations in Romania. This position had been covered for the past four months by Dr. Laszlo Csutak, ANSVSA Vice President.

Dr. Baiculescu brings to the Authority a wealth of experience gained over 30 years in veterinary medicine field from the perspective of both industry and public administration. Prior to joining ANSVSA at the central level, Dr. Baiculescu led the activity of a field office (Buzau County) for few months of 2014. Prior to this, he worked for a private company specializing in veterinary services between 1999 and 2014, and occupied the position of Principal Veterinarian within the field office of Veterinary Authority in Buzau before 1999. Dr. Dumitru Baiculescu graduated as veterinarian from the Veterinary Medicine Faculty Bucharest in 1984 and several years later (1995) he was awarded certification as a veterinarian specializing in Cattle Selection and Reproduction.

Among the top short-term priorities of his mandate, the new leader placed Blue-tongue disease, which last year hit the cattle and sheep sectors hard. In his view, three-year vaccination for the entire ruminant animal inventory would be the most appropriate tool in controlling Blue-tongue disease. Nevertheless such a measure would be disagreed with by other stakeholders whose views vary from strong opposition to vaccination up to voluntary vaccination in commercial farms and vaccination limited to backyard farms surrounding the commercial farms. Communication between governmental bodies and the livestock breeders is expected to intensify in the near future. Continuing the previous efforts on opening new markets in third countries and within the EU for animal origin products and live animals is the second major objective of Dr. Baiculescu's mandate.

The previous head of the authority, Dr. Vladimir Manastireanu, resigned on November 28, 2014. A few days later he joined the Romanian Meat Association (comprising of meat processors) initially in the position of leader of the Food Quality and Safety working group, and later on as the Executive Director of the above Association. During his assignment Dr. Manastireanu focused part of the authority's activity towards fulfilling the conditions to open new markets for Romanian agricultural products. The most notable market that opened as a result is China, where Romania intends to export pork meat, live bovine animals, and dairy products. These efforts resulted in the opening of the Chinese market for Romanian pork meat in March 2015.